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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
12 Plaintiff,

13 v.  
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15 JOSE CERVANTES LICEA,  
16 Defendant.  
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Case No.: 2:25-cr-00602-MWC

**CRIMINAL STANDING ORDER**

**PLEASE READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY. IT GOVERNS THE CASE AND DIFFERS IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THE LOCAL RULES.**

Both the Court and all counsel bear responsibility for the progress of litigation in this Court. “Counsel,” as used in this Order, includes defendants appearing pro se.<sup>1</sup> To secure the just determination of every action, “to secure simplicity in procedure and fairness in administration, and to eliminate unjustifiable expense and delay,” as required by Rule 2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, all counsel, including pro se defendants, are ordered to be familiar with the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure (“FED. R. CRIM. P.”), the Local Criminal Rules of the Central District of California (“Local Criminal Rules”), the applicable Local Civil Rules of the Central District of California (“Local Civil Rules”),<sup>2</sup> and this Court’s standing orders and online procedures and schedules.

**UNLESS THE COURT ORDERS OTHERWISE, THE FOLLOWING RULES APPLY.**

**I. Invitation to Self-Identify Pronouns and Honorifics**

Counsel may indicate their pronouns and honorifics and those of the defendant by filing a letter, adding the information in the name block or signature line of the pleadings, or verbally informing the Court when making an appearance.

**II. Courtroom Decorum**

The Court expects everyone in her courtroom to treat each other with dignity and respect. Therefore, at a minimum, she expects the following from all:<sup>3</sup>

- Being punctual and prepared for all court appearances.

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<sup>1</sup> This Court does not exempt defendants appearing without attorneys, also referred to as “pro se defendants” from compliance with the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Local Criminal Rules of the Central District of California (“Local Criminal Rules”), the applicable Local Civil Rules of the Central District of California (“Local Civil Rules”), and this court’s standing orders and online procedures and schedules. *See* Local Civil Rules 1-3 and 83-2.2.3.

<sup>2</sup> “When applicable directly or by analogy, the Local [Civil] Rules of the Central District of California shall govern the conduct of criminal proceedings before the District Court, unless otherwise specified.” Local Criminal Rule 57-1.

<sup>3</sup> For more detailed guidance, counsel are advised to refer to the Central District of California’s Civility and Professionalism Guidelines, which can be found at <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/attorneys/admissions/civility-and-professionalism-guidelines>.

- Speaking and writing civilly and respectfully in all communications involving the Court.

This includes:

- Referring to and addressing witnesses, counsel, parties, and court personnel by their surnames, pronouns, and honorifics, unless leave to do otherwise is granted.
- Refraining from interrupting any other person in the courtroom when someone else is speaking. The same courtesy will be returned for every person.
- Refraining from making gestures, facial expressions, or audible comments as manifestations of approval or disapproval of testimony or argument.
- Being considerate of the time constraints and pressures on the Court and court staff inherent in their efforts to administer justice.
- Acting and speaking civilly to court marshals, court clerks, court reporters, secretaries, and law clerks with an awareness that they, too, are an integral part of the judicial system.

### **III. Discovery and Notice Obligations**

Counsel shall comply with all notice and discovery obligations set forth in Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 12, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 15, and 16. The Government shall promptly produce to counsel for the defendant any evidence falling within the scope of *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), *Giglio v. United States*, 405 U.S. 150 (1972), *Roviaro v. United States*, 353 U.S. 53 (1957), and *United States v. Henthorn*, 931 F.2d 29 (9th Cir. 1991). The parties are encouraged to produce witness statements pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3500 and Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 26.2 sufficiently in advance of trial or other proceeding to avoid delays. Defense counsel is reminded of its reciprocal discovery obligations pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 26 and should promptly produce such materials to avoid delay at trial. Counsel for the government shall also disclose to counsel for defendant the existence or non-existence of: (1) evidence obtained by electronic surveillance; and (2) testimony by a government informant. A violation of this order or the government's obligations under *Brady*, *Giglio*, *Roviaro*, or *Henthorn* may lead to a finding of

1 contempt, imposition of sanctions, referral to a disciplinary authority, adverse jury instructions,  
2 exclusion of evidence, and dismissal of charges.

3 Counsel shall meet and confer to resolve discovery disputes informally prior to filing a  
4 motion to compel discovery. All discovery motions shall state with particularity what is requested,  
5 the basis for the request, whether the discovery at issue has been requested, and opposing counsel's  
6 response to such request. The Court may decline to hear discovery motions made without prior  
7 consultation with opposing counsel.

#### 8 **IV. Bail Review**

9 Any request for bail review based on changed circumstances or information not previously  
10 presented to the Magistrate Judge shall be addressed in the first instance to the Magistrate Judge  
11 and shall be served on both opposing counsel and Pretrial Services.

#### 12 **V. General Requirements**

##### 13 **A. Filings**

14 The captioned title of every filing shall contain: (a) the name of the first-listed defendant as  
15 well as the name(s) and number(s) (in the order listed in the Indictment) of the particular  
16 defendant(s) to whom the filing applies, unless the document applies to all defendants; (b) the  
17 individual defendant's registration number when applicable to the relief requested (e.g., requests for  
18 transfer, medical requests); and (c) the milestone dates for Indictment, Final Pretrial Conference,  
19 Trial, and Last Day of the speedy trial period.

20 All parties shall docket items only as to the particular defendant(s) to whom the item  
21 pertains, rather than all defendants, unless the item pertains to all. Except for documents filed under  
22 seal or in camera, every document shall be filed electronically in such a way that it is clear from the  
23 docketing entry to which defendant(s) it applies. The outer envelope containing any document filed  
24 under seal or in camera should identify the case title by the first-listed defendant and case number  
25 only and should state that the document is being filed under seal or in camera.

##### 26 **B. Pre-Filing Requirements for Motions**

27 Counsel must meet and confer with opposing counsel "to discuss thoroughly the substance  
28 of any contemplated motion and any potential resolution" thereof. Local Criminal Rule 57-1; Local

Civil Rule 7-3. Counsel shall discuss the issues to a sufficient degree that if a motion is still necessary, the briefing may be directed to those substantive issues requiring resolution by the Court.

**C. Time for Filing and Hearing Motions**

Motions shall be filed in accordance with Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 47 and Local Criminal Rule 49, et seq., unless superseded by this Order. The Court hears motions in criminal actions on **Fridays, beginning at 10 a.m.**

All pretrial motions, including motions to suppress evidence, motions to bifurcate or sever, and motions concerning character evidence under Federal Rule of Evidence 404(b), shall be noticed for a Friday that is mutually agreed to by counsel. It is not necessary to clear a hearing date with the Courtroom Deputy Clerk before filing a motion, but counsel must ensure that the date selected is a date that is open on the Court's calendar by consulting Judge Court's webpage at <https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/honorable-michelle-williams-court>. The parties should not calendar a matter on a Friday that is a court holiday or a date that is closed on the Court's calendar. If this occurs, the Court will re-calendar the matter for another Friday.

For all motions other than motions in limine, the briefing schedule is as follows: motions shall be filed five (5) weeks prior to the hearing; oppositions or notices of non-opposition shall be filed three (3) weeks prior to the hearing; and replies, if any, shall be filed two (2) weeks prior to the hearing. All motions must be properly noticed for hearing no later than the date of the Final Pretrial Conference.

The parties must adhere to the briefing schedule set forth herein to afford the Court adequate time to prepare for the hearing; however, the parties may stipulate to an alternate briefing schedule contingent upon approval by the Court. Failure to comply with these deadlines may result in the Court declining to consider the untimely memorandum or other document. Local Criminal Rule 57-1; Local Civil Rule 7-12.

**D. Length and Format of Motion Papers**

Memoranda of points and authorities in support of or in opposition to motions (besides motions in limine) shall not exceed twenty-five (25) pages. Replies shall not exceed twelve (12) pages. Only in rare instances and for good cause shown will the Court grant an application to

1 extend these page limitations. No supplemental brief shall be filed without prior leave of court. All  
2 briefing must use Times New Roman or Courier font. Text must be no less than twelve (12) point  
3 font; footnotes shall be no less than eleven (11) point font.

4 Counsel shall adhere to Local Civil Rule 5-4.3 with respect to the conversion of all  
5 documents to .pdf format so that when a document is electronically filed, it is in proper size and  
6 is .pdf searchable. Further, all documents shall be filed in a format so that text can be selected,  
7 copied, and pasted directly from the document. *See* Local Civil Rule 5-4.3.1.

8 **E. Proposed Orders**

9 Each party filing or opposing a motion or seeking the determination of any matter shall serve  
10 and electronically lodge a proposed order setting forth the relief or action sought and a brief  
11 statement of the rationale for the decision with appropriate citations. In addition, a copy of the  
12 proposed order in Word format shall be emailed directly to the Court's chambers email address at  
13 MWC\_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov on the day the document is electronically filed.

14 **F. Chambers Courtesy Copies and Emailed Submissions**

15 The Court does not require chambers copies of any motion papers or exhibits and  
16 discourages the parties from sending chambers courtesy copies, unless otherwise specified. All  
17 emailed submissions to Chambers referred to in this Order must be in Word format and emailed to  
18 MWC\_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov.

19 **G. Calendar Conflicts**

20 If any counsel discovers a calendar conflict with a scheduled appearance in a court of a  
21 more senior district judge, counsel must inform opposing counsel and the Courtroom Deputy Clerk  
22 via chambers email address at: MWC\_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov as soon as possible and no  
23 later than three (3) business days before the scheduled appearance. Counsel should attempt to agree  
24 on a new date to accommodate the calendar conflict. Counsel must propose a new date by filing a  
25 Stipulation and [Proposed] Order and emailing to Chambers the Proposed Order.

26 **H. Continuances**

27 Any request for continuance of pretrial and/or trial dates must be by motion, stipulation, or  
28 application, and must be supported by a declaration setting forth the reasons for the requested relief.

1 The declaration must contain a highly detailed factual showing of good cause and due diligence  
2 demonstrating the necessity for the continuance and a description of the parties' efforts, dating back  
3 to the filing of the complaint, of the steps they have taken to advance the litigation. This detailed  
4 showing must demonstrate that the work still to be performed reasonably could not have been  
5 accomplished within the applicable deadlines. General statements are insufficient to establish good  
6 cause. The declaration should also include whether any previous requests for continuances have  
7 been made and whether these requests were granted or denied by the Court.

8 A list of counsel's upcoming scheduled trials in other actions will not support a showing of  
9 good cause absent the following information regarding each such action listed: (1) the case name,  
10 case number, court where the action is pending, and the initials of the district judge or name of the  
11 state court judge assigned to the action; (2) the age of the action; (3) the nature of the offense(s)  
12 charged and complexity of the action; (4) the scheduled trial date; (5) the estimated length of trial;  
13 (6) the number of continuances previously granted; (7) the parties' trial readiness; (8) the estimated  
14 likelihood a future continuance will be requested; and (9) the likelihood the trial will proceed on the  
15 scheduled date.

16 Counsel shall avoid submitting requests for continuance of trial less than one (1) week prior  
17 to the Final Pretrial Conference. Counsel shall also clear any proposed trial dates with the  
18 Courtroom Deputy Clerk by contacting the Court's chambers email address at  
19 [MWC\\_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov](mailto:MWC_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov).

20 Stipulations extending dates set by the Court are not effective unless approved by the Court,  
21 and without compelling factual support and a showing of due diligence, stipulations continuing  
22 dates set by the Court will be denied.

### 23 **I. Ex Parte Applications**

24 Counsel are reminded that ex parte applications are solely for extraordinary relief. All ex  
25 parte applications must be sent in .pdf version to [MWC\\_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov](mailto:MWC_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov) along with a  
26 Word version of the proposed order. Both the email to the Court and the application should advise  
27 whether opposing counsel will be filing an opposition. Applications that do not meet the  
28 requirements set forth in Local Civil Rule 7-19 will not be considered. Sanctions may be imposed

1 for misuse of ex parte applications. The Court considers ex parte applications on the papers and  
2 usually does not set these matters for hearing.

3 Counsel for the applicant must provide notice of the application by telephone and email to all  
4 other parties. In addition to the information required by Local Civil Rule 7-19.1, the notice must  
5 advise the other parties of the anticipated deadline to oppose the application. The applicant must  
6 serve the application by facsimile, email, or personal service, even if electronic service is effected  
7 under Local Criminal Rule 49-1, et seq.

8 Oppositions to ex parte applications must be filed within 24 hours of the filing of the  
9 application. If an opposing party does not intend to oppose the ex parte application, counsel must  
10 inform the Courtroom Deputy by email as soon as possible.

## 11 **VI. Trial Preparation**

### 12 **A. Motions in Limine**

13 Motions in limine will generally be heard and ruled upon at the Final Pretrial Conference.  
14 The Court may rule orally instead of in writing. All motions in limine must be filed at least twenty-  
15 eight (28) days before the Final Pretrial Conference. Oppositions must be filed at least fourteen (14)  
16 days before the Final Pretrial Conference. There shall be no replies. Motions in limine and  
17 oppositions must not exceed ten (10) pages in length.

18 Before filing a motion in limine, the parties must meet and confer to determine whether the  
19 opposing party intends to introduce the disputed evidence and attempt to reach an agreement that  
20 would obviate the need for the motion. Motions in limine should address specific issues (e.g., not “to  
21 exclude all hearsay”). The court may strike without further notice excessive, unvetted, or untimely  
22 motions in limine.

### 23 **B. Expert Witness Testimony**

24 The Court expects that all expert witness testimony will conform to the applicable guidance  
25 set forth in the U.S. Department of Justice Uniform Language for Testimony and Reports found at:  
26 <https://www.justice.gov/olp/uniform-language-testimony-and-reports>. To the extent that the parties  
27 anticipate that any expert witness testimony will not conform to this guidance or that there is no  
28

1 applicable guidance, the parties are to raise this with the Court via a motion in limine for decision at  
2 the Final Pretrial Conference.

3 **C. Schedule for Filing Pretrial Documents**

4 The government shall file and email to Chambers the following pretrial documents no later  
5 than one week and one day before the Final Pretrial Conference:

- 6 ○ Trial memorandum;
- 7 ○ Witness list;
- 8 ○ Exhibit list;
- 9 ○ Case-specific glossary for the Court Reporter;
- 10 ○ Joint jury instructions in the form described below;
- 11 ○ Joint proposed verdict form; and
- 12 ○ Proposed voir dire questions, if any.

13 **D. Requirements for Pretrial Documents**

14 **1. Trial Memorandum**

15 The government's trial memorandum shall set forth the following:

- 16 ○ Factual summary of the government's case-in-chief;
- 17 ○ Statement of the charges and the elements of each charge;
- 18 ○ Time estimate of the length of the government's case-in-chief, including  
19 anticipated cross-examination; and
- 20 ○ Discussion of relevant legal and evidentiary issues as applied to the facts of the  
21 particular case.

22 The government shall specify, after a meet and confer, whether the parties agree or disagree  
23 the aforementioned matters.

24 **2. Witness List**

25 Witness lists must be in the format specified in Local Rule 16-5 and must include for each  
26 witness (1) a brief description of the testimony; (2) the reasons the testimony is unique and not  
27 redundant; and (3) a time estimate in hours for direct and cross-examination. The list should include  
28 defense witnesses to the extent the defense does not object to disclosure.

Any Amended Witness List must be filed and emailed to Chambers by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the Friday before trial.

The parties must use the following format:

<b>Witness's Name,* Phone Number, Address</b>	<b>Summary of Testimony / Why Testimony Unique</b>	<b>Time for Direct Exam (Hours)</b>	<b>Time for Cross Exam (Hours)</b>	<b>Dates of Testimony</b>
Jane Doe 1111 Main St., Los Angeles, CA 99999 213-999-9999	Will testify what she saw at accident. Unique in that she is the only eyewitness	2 hours	1 hour	[To be filled in during trial]

\*Indicates that witness will be called only if the need arises.

### 3. Exhibit List

Exhibit lists must be in the format specified in Local Civil Rule 16-6 and shall include an additional column stating any objections to authenticity and/or admissibility and the reasons for the objections. The list should include defense exhibits to the extent the defense does not object to disclosure.

Any Amended Joint Exhibit List shall be filed and emailed to Chambers by 12:00 p.m. (noon) on the Friday before trial.

The exhibit list should follow the following format:

<b>Ex. #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Witness Establishing Foundation</b>	<b>Objections to Admissibility and/or Authenticity (include basis and party objecting)</b>	<b>Response to Objection</b>	<b>Date Identified</b>	<b>Date Admitted</b>
3	1/30/80 letter from Doe to Roe					

#### 4. Case-Specific Glossary

The parties must provide a case-specific glossary for the Court Reporter that includes applicable medical, scientific, or technical terms, gang terms, slang, the names and spellings of case names likely to be cited, street/city/country names, all parties/agents/departments/entities involved in the case, names of people interviewed/deposed, names of family members, friends, or others who might be mentioned, and other case-specific terminology.

#### 5. Jury Instructions

The parties must make every effort to agree upon jury instructions before submitting proposals to the Court. The Court expects the parties to agree on the substantial majority of instructions, particularly when pattern or model jury instructions exist and provide a statement of applicable law. The parties shall meet and confer regarding jury instructions in a timely manner.

The parties shall file and email to Chambers clean and redline sets of: (1) their Joint Agreed Upon Proposed Jury Instructions; and (2) their Disputed Jury Instructions. The redline sets shall include all modifications made by the parties to pattern or model jury instructions, any disputed language, and the factual or legal basis for each party's position as to each disputed instruction. Where appropriate, the disputed instructions shall be organized by subject, so that instructions that address the same or similar issues are presented sequentially. If there are excessive or frivolous disagreements over jury instructions, the Court will order the parties to meet and confer immediately until they substantially narrow their disagreements.

**Sources:** When the *Manual of Model Jury Instructions for the Ninth Circuit*<sup>4</sup> provides an applicable jury instruction, the parties should submit the most recent version, modified and supplemented to fit the circumstances of the case. Where no Ninth Circuit instruction applies, the parties should consult the current edition of O'Malley, et al., *Federal Jury Practice and Instructions*. The parties may submit alternatives to these instructions only if there is a reasoned argument that they do not properly state the law or are incomplete. The Court seldom gives instructions derived solely from case law.

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<sup>4</sup> The Manual of Model Jury Instructions for the Ninth Circuit may be found on the Ninth Circuit's website at <https://www.ce9.uscourts.gov/jury-instructions/model-civil>.

**Format:** Each requested instruction shall: (1) cite the authority or source of the instruction; (2) be set forth in full; (3) be on a separate page; (4) be numbered; (5) cover only one subject or principle of law; and (6) not repeat principles of law contained in any other requested instruction. If a standard instruction has blanks or offers options (e.g., for gender or pronouns<sup>5</sup>), the parties must fill in the blanks or make the appropriate selections in their proposed instructions.

**Index:** All proposed jury instructions must have an index that includes the following for each instruction, as illustrated in the example below:

- the number of the instruction;
- the title of the instruction;
- the source of the instruction and any relevant case citations; and
- the page number of the instruction.

***Example:***

<b>Instruction</b>			
<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Page Number</u>
1	Conspiracy-Elements	9th Cir. 8.5.1	1

Counsel also shall list the instructions in the order they will be given and indicate whether the instruction shall be read before opening statements, during trial, or before closing arguments.

During the trial and before closing argument, the Court will meet with the parties to settle the instructions. At that time, the parties will have an opportunity to make an oral record concerning their objections. Each member of the jury will be given their own copy of the instructions during deliberations.

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<sup>5</sup> Per the Court's Standing Order, litigants and counsel may indicate their honorifics by filing a letter, adding the information in the name block or signature line of the pleadings, or verbally informing the Court when making an appearance.

## 6. Joint Verdict Forms

The parties shall make every effort to agree on a verdict form before submitting proposals to the Court. If the parties are unable to agree on a verdict form, the parties shall file and email to Chambers one document titled “Competing Verdict Forms” which shall include: (1) the parties’ respective proposed verdict form; (2) a redline of any disputed language; and (3) the factual or legal basis for each party’s respective position.

## 7. Proposed Voir Dire Questions

The Court will conduct the voir dire. In most cases, the Court will question all prospective jurors in the jury panel. The Court asks prospective jurors basic biographical questions (jurors’ place of residence, employment, whether familiar with the parties or counsel, etc.), as well as questions going to their ability to be fair and impartial and carry out the duties required. The Court may ask additional case-specific questions. The parties may file and email to Chambers any proposed case-specific voir dire questions for the Court’s consideration. If it considers the questions proper, the Court will pose the questions to the prospective jurors.

All challenges for cause and all *Batson* challenges shall be made at side bar or otherwise outside the prospective jurors’ presence. The Court will not necessarily accept a stipulation to a challenge for cause.

## VII. Trial Exhibits

### A. General Requirements

Trial exhibits that consist of documents and photographs must be submitted to the Court in three-ring binders. The parties shall submit to the Court three (3) sets of binders: one (1) original set of trial exhibits, and two (2) copies of trial exhibits. The original set of exhibits shall be for use by the jury during its deliberations, and the copies are for the Court. *The parties must prepare additional copies of exhibits for their own use and for use by witnesses.* The parties must review the exhibit list and exhibit binders with the Courtroom Deputy Clerk before the admitted exhibits will be given to the jury.

All exhibits placed in three-ring binders must be indexed by exhibit number with tabs or dividers on the right side. Exhibits shall be numbered sequentially 1, 2, 3, etc., *not* 1.1, 1.2, etc. *See*

1 Local Civil Rule 16-6. Every page of a multi-page exhibit must be numbered. Defendant's exhibit  
2 numbers shall not duplicate Plaintiff's numbers. The spine of each binder shall indicate the volume  
3 number and the range of exhibit numbers included in the volume.

- 4 • The *original exhibits* shall bear the official exhibit tags (yellow tags for Plaintiff's  
5 exhibits and blue tags for Defendant's exhibits) affixed to the front upper right-hand  
6 corner of the exhibit, with the case number, case name, and exhibit number stated on  
7 each tag. Tags may be obtained from the Clerk's Office, or the parties may print their  
8 own exhibit tags using Forms G-14A and G-14B on the "Court Forms" section of the  
9 Central District of California's website.
- 10 • The *copies of exhibits* must bear copies of the official exhibit tags that were placed on  
11 the original exhibits and be indexed with tabs or dividers on the right side.

12 In addition to the three (3) sets of binders above, the parties must also submit to the Court a  
13 USB flash drive containing OCR-scanned .pdf versions of all exhibits. The USB flash drive must be  
14 delivered to the judge's courtesy box located outside the Clerk's Office on the 4th floor of the  
15 courthouse by 12:00 p.m. on the Friday before the start of trial. The Government's exhibits must be  
16 placed in a separate folder from Defendant's exhibits, and the document file names *must* include the  
17 exhibit number and a brief description of the document (*e.g.*, "Ex. 1 – Smith Declaration.pdf" or  
18 "Ex. 105 –Letter Dated 1-5-20.pdf").

19 Exhibits such as firearms, narcotics, etc., must remain in the custody of a law enforcement  
20 agent during the pendency of the trial. It shall be the responsibility of the agent to produce any such  
21 items for court, secure them at night, and guard them at all times while in the courtroom. The  
22 United States Marshals Service shall be advised well in advance if weapons or contraband is to be  
23 brought into the courthouse.

24 A copy of the exhibit list with all admitted exhibits will be given to the jury during  
25 deliberations. Government and defense counsel shall review and approve the exhibit list with the  
26 Courtroom Deputy Clerk before the list is given to the jury.

1 Counsel shall not attempt to display or use any charts or enlargements of exhibits unless all  
2 counsel have agreed to their use or objections have been heard and a ruling has been made by the  
3 Court.

#### 4 **B. Defense Submissions**

5 The Court prefers that defense counsel deliver defense exhibits to the Courtroom Deputy  
6 Clerk on the first day of trial, but counsel are not required to do so unless these exhibits have  
7 previously been provided to the government. Defense counsel are responsible for affixing  
8 completed exhibit tags with the case name and case number to all exhibits to be used in defendant's  
9 case.

10 In trials where the defense expects to admit more than 20 exhibits, defense counsel shall  
11 provide two three-ring binders (one for the Court and one for witnesses) tabbed, if possible, with  
12 numbers to correspond to the exhibits counsel expects to introduce. Defense counsel shall provide  
13 the Court with a copy of defense exhibits as they are introduced during trial if they have not  
14 previously been provided.

15 Defense counsel shall provide the government, the Courtroom Deputy Clerk and the Court  
16 Reporter with the defense witness list and the defense exhibit list at the start of the defense case, at  
17 the latest.

#### 18 **C. Audio/Visual Equipment and Other Electronic Equipment**

19 The Court provides audio/visual equipment for use during trial. The parties are encouraged to  
20 use it. More information is available at: [http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/clerk-services/courtroom-](http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/clerk-services/courtroom-technology)  
21 [technology](http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/clerk-services/courtroom-technology). The Court does not permit exhibits to be "published" to the jurors before they are  
22 admitted into evidence. Once admitted, exhibits may be displayed electronically using the  
23 equipment and screens in the courtroom.

24 If electronic equipment must be brought into the courtroom for trial, counsel shall make prior  
25 arrangements with the Court Security. Notice must be given to the Courtroom Deputy Clerk at  
26 MWC\_Chambers@cacd.uscourts.gov no later than four (4) days before trial.

1 **VIII. Materials to Present on First Day of Trial**

2 The government must present the following materials to the Courtroom Deputy Clerk on the  
3 first day of trial:

- 4 1. Three (3) copies of the indictment/information;
- 5 2. Three (3) copies of the government's witness list;
- 6 3. Three (3) copies of the government's exhibit list; and
- 7 4. The *three (3) sets of binders* described above, with one (1) original set of trial  
8 exhibits for the jury, and two (2) copies of trial exhibits for the Court.

9 **IX. Court Reporter**

10 Any party requesting special court reporter services for any hearing, such as "Real Time"  
11 transmission or daily transcripts, shall notify Court Reporting Services at least fourteen (14) days  
12 before the hearing date.<sup>6</sup>

13 **X. Daily Schedule for Jury Trials**

14 On the first day of trial, Court will commence at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at approximately  
15 5:00 p.m., with a one-hour lunch break and two fifteen-minute breaks. The parties must appear at  
16 8:30 a.m. to discuss preliminary matters with the Court. The Court will call a jury panel only when  
17 it is satisfied the case is ready for trial. Jury selection usually takes only a few hours. The parties  
18 should be prepared to proceed with opening statements and witness examination immediately after  
19 jury selection.

20 Fridays are usually reserved for the Court's calendar. As a result, trial will not be held on  
21 Fridays unless the jury is deliberating or the Court's calendar allows trial to proceed. Therefore,  
22 trial days are generally Monday through Thursday. Trial days are from 8:30 a.m. to approximately  
23 5:00 p.m., with two 15-minute breaks and a one-hour lunch break.

24 All counsel must anticipate matters that may need to be addressed outside of the presence of the  
25 jury and raise them at 8:30 a.m., during breaks, or at the end of the day. The Court is not in the  
26 practice of requiring jurors to sit idly by while counsel discuss matters that should have been  
27 \_\_\_\_\_

28 <sup>6</sup> Additional information regarding Court Reporting Services may be found on the Central District of California website at <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/court-reporting-services>.

addressed previously. Counsel are urged to consider any unusual substantive or evidentiary issues that may arise and to advise the Court of such issues. Short briefs (no more than five pages) addressing such disputed issues are welcome. The Court strongly discourages sidebars during trial.

## **XI. Conduct of Attorneys and Parties**

### **A. Meeting and Confering Throughout Trial**

The parties *must* continue to meet and confer on all issues that arise during trial. The Court will not rule on any such issue unless the parties have attempted to resolve it first.

### **B. Opening Statements, Witness Examinations, and Summation**

Counsel must use the lectern. Counsel should not consume jury time by writing out words and drawing charts or diagrams. All such aids must be prepared in advance. When appropriate, the Court will establish and enforce time limits for all phases of trial, including opening statements, closing arguments, and the examination of witnesses.

### **C. Objections to Questions**

Counsel must not make speaking objections before the jury or otherwise make speeches, restate testimony, or attempt to guide a witness.

When objecting, counsel must rise to state the objection and state only that counsel objects and the legal grounds for the objection (e.g., “Objection, hearsay”). If the Court invites either clarification of the legal grounds for the objection or a response, counsel must not abuse the invitation by providing factual argument before the jury. If counsel wishes to argue an objection further, counsel must seek permission from the Court to do so.

### **D. General Decorum While in Session**

1. Counsel must not approach the Courtroom Deputy Clerk, the jury box, or the witness stand without court authorization and must return to the lectern when the purpose for the approach has been accomplished.
2. Counsel must rise when addressing the Court, and when the Court or the jury enters or leaves the courtroom, unless directed otherwise.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> In the event that a disability prevents a party from doing so, the party is advised to inform the Court in advance.

3. Counsel must address all remarks to the Court. Counsel must not address the Courtroom Deputy Clerk, the court reporter, persons in the audience, or opposing counsel. Any request to re-read questions or answers shall be addressed to the Court. Counsel must ask the Court's permission to speak with opposing counsel.
4. Counsel must not address or refer to witnesses or parties by first names alone, except for witnesses who are below age fourteen (14).
5. Counsel must not offer a stipulation unless counsel have conferred with opposing counsel and have verified that the stipulation will be acceptable. *Any stipulation of fact will require the defendant's personal concurrence, must be explained to the defendant in advance, and shall be submitted to the Court in writing for approval.*
6. Counsel must not leave counsel table to confer with any person in the back of the courtroom without the Court's permission.
7. Counsel must not make facial expressions, nod, shake their heads, comment, or otherwise exhibit in any way any agreement, disagreement, or other opinion or belief concerning the testimony of a witness or argument by opposing counsel. Counsel shall instruct their clients and witnesses not to engage in such conduct.
8. Counsel must never speak to jurors under any circumstance, and must not speak to co-counsel, opposing counsel, witnesses, or clients if the conversation can be overheard by jurors. Counsel must instruct their clients and witnesses to avoid such conduct.
9. Where a party has more than one lawyer, only one attorney may conduct the direct or cross-examination of a particular witness or make objections as to that witness.
10. Bottled water is permitted in the courtroom. Food and other beverages are not permitted. Cell phones must be silenced or may be confiscated.

#### **E. Punctuality**

1. The Court expects the parties, counsel, and witnesses to be punctual. Once the parties and their counsel are engaged in trial, the trial must be their priority. The Court will not delay progress of the trial or inconvenience jurors.
2. If a witness was on the stand at the time of a recess or adjournment, the party that called

1 the witness shall ensure the witness is back on the stand and ready to proceed as soon as  
2 trial resumes.

- 3 3. The parties must notify the Courtroom Deputy Clerk in advance if any party, counsel, or  
4 witness requires a reasonable accommodation based on a disability or other reason.
- 5 4. No presenting party may be without witnesses. If a party's remaining witnesses are not  
6 immediately available, thereby causing an unreasonable delay, the Court may deem that  
7 party to have rested.
- 8 5. The Court generally will accommodate witnesses by permitting them to be called out of  
9 sequence. Counsel should meet and confer in advance and make every effort to resolve  
10 the matter.

11 **F. Exhibits**

- 12 1. Counsel must keep track of their exhibits and exhibit list, and record when each exhibit  
13 has been admitted into evidence.
- 14 2. Counsel are responsible for any exhibits they secure from the Courtroom Deputy Clerk  
15 and must return them before leaving the courtroom.
- 16 3. Any exhibit not previously marked must be accompanied by a request that it be marked  
17 for identification at the time of its first mention. Counsel must show a new exhibit to  
18 opposing counsel before the court session in which it is mentioned.
- 19 4. Counsel must inform the Courtroom Deputy Clerk of any agreements reached regarding  
20 any proposed exhibits, as well as those exhibits that may be received into evidence  
21 without a motion to admit.
- 22 5. When referring to an exhibit, counsel must refer to its exhibit number. Counsel should  
23 instruct their witnesses to do the same.
- 24 6. Counsel should not ask witnesses to draw charts or diagrams or ask the Court's  
25 permission for a witness to do so. All demonstrative aids must be prepared fully in  
26 advance of the day's trial session.
- 27 7. Counsel are required to seek to admit any items of evidence whose admissibility has not  
28 yet been stipulated to while the witness authenticating the exhibit is on the stand, so that

any issues or concerns that arise may be addressed immediately.

**XII. Sentencing**

**A. Original Sentencing Proceedings**

Once set, the sentencing hearing shall not be continued absent a detailed, substantial showing of good cause. No later than fourteen (14) days before the hearing, each party shall submit either a sentencing memorandum or a written notice of intent not to file one. Before considering any sentencing video, the Court requires counsel to justify its submission, limit the video to less than ten (10) minutes, create a transcript, and provide the video and transcript to opposing counsel at least twenty-one (21) days before the hearing.

The Court does not permit sentencing documents to be filed under seal except as strictly necessary and justified. When necessary, a sentencing document may be filed under seal along with a redacted version that deletes the confidential information and that justifies each deletion (e.g., “medical information”).

**B. Supervision Violation Proceedings**

Any material submitted for a hearing on an alleged or adjudicated violation of supervision shall be filed, when possible, seven (7) days before the hearing, and otherwise no later than two (2) court days, absent a showing of good cause set forth in a supporting declaration and court approval.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: July 28, 2025



HON. MICHELLE WILLIAMS COURT

United States District Judge